

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5197

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6970

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC PT PO ID

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR--CHOICE OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ASSESS SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR.

REF: USUN 6948(NOTAL)

1. OPERATIVE PARA 5 OF UN. SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 384
OF DECEMBER 22, 1975(REFTEL) REQUESTS UN. SECRETARY
GENERAL (UNSYG) WALDHEIM TO SEND URGENTLY A SPECIAL REP-
RESENTATIVE TO EAST TIMOR TO ASSESS THE SITUATION THERE.

2. AS OF EARLY AFTERNOON DECEMBER 24, WALDHEIM REPORTEDLY HAD NOT
MADE A FINAL CHOICE REGARDING HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO
EAST TIMOR. ACCORDING TO NEW LY ARRIVED DIRECTOR GLEISSNER
OF THE UN. SECRETARIAT'S SECURITY COUNCIL AND POLITICAL
COMMITTEE'S DIVISION, WALDHEIM HAS BEEN CONSIDERING
BRAZIL'S AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA JOSE SETTE CAMARA
AND THE UN. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL IN GENEVA, WINSPEARE
GUICCIARDI FOR THE MISSION. GLEISSNER ASKED USUN TO HOLD THIS
INFORMATION MOST CLOSELY AND HE EMPHASIZED ITS TENTA-
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TIVE CHARACTER.

3. GLEISSNER COMMENTED THAT WALDHEIM WOULD LIKE HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO SPEAK PORTUGUESE SO AS TO BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE PORTUGUESE TIMORIANS WITHOUT AN INTERPRETER. ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, WINSPEARE , AS A UN. OFFICIAL, COULD BE DISPATCHED EXPEDITIOUSLY ON WALDHEIM'S INSTRUCTIONS. FURTHERMORE, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE INDONESIANS MIGHT CONSIDER A BRAZILIAN TO BE PRO-PORTUGUESE. ACCORDING TO GLEISSNER, WALDHEIM WANTS HIS SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO LEAVE FOR TIMOR IN VERY EARLY JANUARY.

4. AMBASSADOR SETTE COMARA IS EXTREMELY WELL VERSED IN UN. AFFAIRS. HE HAS BEEN BRAZIL'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK AND FREQUENTLY A MEMBER OF BRAZIL'S UN. GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE ONE IN 1975. SETTE COMARA, A FORMER LEGAL ADVISOR IN BRAZIL'S FOREIGN OFFICE, SPECIALIZES AT UNGA'S IN COMMITTEE SIX (LEGAL) WORK. AMBASSADOR SHERER WHO HAD SETTE COMARA AS A COLLEAGUE IN PRAGUE, CONSIDERS HIM ESSENTIALLY FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND CONSERVATIVE IN OUTLOOK. A USUN LEGAL OFFICER DESCRIBES SETTE COMARA AS ABLE AND ENERGETIC AS WELL AS VERY CONSERVATIVE AND PRO-WESTERN. SETTE COMARA REPORTEDLY OWNS ONE OF BRAZIL'S LARGEST NEWSPAPERS, THE "JORNAL DO BRASIL".
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